

many Americans to use seat belts, child restraints, and other safety devices.

The Decade of Action for Road Safety has not been declared to merely raise awareness, but also to take action. We all use roads, cars, buses, and bicycles every day. It is easy to take our safety for granted. But too many tragedies remind us that road fatalities and injuries have an enormous impact on our lives. As Americans travel the world more and more and as our global society grows ever more close-knit, the pressing importance of our observance of the World Day of Remembrance only grows as well.

Mr. Speaker, no one should die because of entirely preventable traffic accidents. We must do everything we can to raise awareness and address the underlying causes. On this year's Day of Remembrance, let us pay extra attention to ways we can make the world a safer place.

CELEBRATING THE SERVICE OF  
JON MARTHEDAL

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 18, 2011*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Jon Marthedal, a third generation farmer from Fresno, California. Jon has been named Agriculturalist of the Year by the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce. Jon has been instrumental in enhancing the San Joaquin Valley by advocating for business opportunities and encouraging innovation in our community. A distinguished farmer and leader, Jon is certainly deserving of recognition by the Chamber.

Marthedal Farms has been a family operation since its inception in 1903. Upon immigrating to the United States from Denmark, Harold Marthedal, Sr. purchased 20 acres of property. Years later, his son Harold Jr. took over and worked to expand the size of the farm. Today, Marthedal Farms is operated by Jon and his son Eric. They manage about 700 acres of raisin grapes, table grapes, and blueberries.

Jon has been an important part of the agricultural community for many years. Upon earning his degree in Agricultural Business from California State University, Fresno, he began his career at Sun-Maid Growers in 1978. In ten years, he became Director, and then served as Vice Chairman before becoming Chairman in 1999. Through his progressive and innovative work, Jon has become a respected voice in matters pertaining to California agriculture.

Jon's passion and commitment to agriculture has been demonstrated by his enthusiastic membership and leadership within a number of agriculture-based organizations. He serves as Secretary of the Raisin Administrative Committee, Vice Chairman of the Agricultural Council of California, Chairman of the California Blueberry Commission, and is a member of the Board Restructuring Committee for CoBank—a lender to cooperatives. For over 100 years, Marthedal Farms has been an integral part of maintaining the San Joaquin Valley's status as the breadbasket of the world.

Jon and his wife Sandy have three children. Whether he is spending time with his family

and friends, or serving our community, Jon has always been known to be a man of principle and integrity.

I applaud Jon for his many years of work and congratulate him on his well-deserved recognition from the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in applauding and expressing appreciation for Jon's work.

NATIONAL NURSE PRACTITIONER  
WEEK

**HON. SANDER M. LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 18, 2011*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of National Nurse Practitioner Week.

This honorary week, November 13th through the 19th, celebrates the vital service that over 148,000 nurse practitioners provide to patients around the country. At a time when there is a shortage of primary care physicians, more and more Americans are turning to nurse practitioners to help with their medical problems.

Nurse practitioners are highly educated, licensed clinicians that provide a broad range of patient-focused care. Besides treating medical needs, nurse practitioners also focus on health promotion and disease prevention as well as health education that helps guide patients and assist them in making healthy choices in their day-to-day lives. Nurse practitioners improve the lives of Americans and help reduce health care costs. We should celebrate nurse practitioners as a crucial part of our healthcare system and a solution to many of the problems it faces.

I urge all my colleagues to join me in recognizing the important work of nurse practitioners across the nation.

HONORING MICHAEL DUANE  
CURTIS

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 18, 2011*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Michael Duane Curtis. Michael is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 247, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Michael has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Michael has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Michael has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Michael Duane Curtis for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

MIKE WHITT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
MINGO COUNTY REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 18, 2011*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I want to call to my colleagues' attention, during these times of budgetary debate, the significant savings realized by the taxpayers of our country by the vision and work of one of my constituents, Mr. Mike Whitt, the Executive Director of the Mingo County Redevelopment Authority.

In pursuit of sound, forward-thinking economic development initiatives, Mike was light-years ahead of other jurisdictions when he began forging public-private partnerships to save taxpayer dollars, leveraging public funding and above all creating good paying sustainable jobs for families. No slick financing schemes; no hocus pocus accounting tricks here. Mike did his homework and did it well. He still does. Anyone, who has ever had the good fortune to participate in one of his project presentations, knows they have to be on their toes to answer detailed questions about what they can bring to the table.

Mike has travelled the country sharing his valuable time with agencies and associations to spread the word about how some old-fashioned hard work in planning economic development ventures upfront can save millions in the end. He has given freely of his experience and expertise so others can adopt his sensible and thoughtful approach to investing public funds to address citizen's needs for a darn good return on the taxpayer's dime.

As we debate ways to improve our budget in the coming weeks, I hope my colleagues will look to the results sound public investment can yield when that investment is married with private investment and properly managed. I am certain the Mingo County Redevelopment Authority will be happy to share their accomplishments.

In a larger sense, Mike Whitt serves as a bright beacon to all who strive to serve the public, administer public programs, and manage public funds. Our country owes Mike a debt of great gratitude for his work and his years of sacrifice away from family and friends to serve the public good.

Recently, Mike has been battling some health issues. Mike is a man of great faith, a strong fighter, who has the courage of his convictions. We know though he appreciates the power of partnership, so we welcome your thoughts and prayers for Mike and his family as he tackles this personal challenge.

TAIWAN AIRPOWER

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 18, 2011*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, China should not dictate what America can or cannot do. But, when it comes to our Taiwan policy, it seems we kowtow to the wannabe empire of the East. China has over 1,400 missiles pointed at Taiwan, and military experts agree that Taiwan is losing its ability to even slow China